

4 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Chapter 4 of the DEIR contains a discussion of existing conditions, thresholds above which an impact is considered significant, environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation. Issues evaluated in these sections consist of a full range of potential environmental topics originally identified for review in the notice of preparation (NOP) of the DEIR. Appendix A contains a copy of the NOP and comments received on the NOP. Each of Sections 4.1 through 4.11 of this DEIR is organized into the following major components:

- **Existing Conditions:** This subsection presents the existing regional and local environmental conditions relevant to the consideration of project impacts, as described below. The applicable regulatory framework, plans and policies, under which the proposed project would be implemented, are also discussed in the environmental setting component of each section.
- **Thresholds of Significance:** This subsection presents the criteria used to define significant effects on the environment. The criteria are expressed as thresholds, above which the project would have a significant effect on the environment. Thresholds may be quantitative or qualitative, or may be based on agency standards, or legislative or regulatory requirements as related to the impact analysis.
- **Environmental Impacts:** This subsection discusses potential significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, based on whether it exceeds expressed thresholds. Project impacts are numbered sequentially in each section throughout the section. For instance, impacts in Section 4.3 are numbered Impact 4.3-1, Impact 4.3-2, Impact 4.3-3, and so on. A bold font impact statement follows the discussion of each impact and provides the summary of each impact and its level of significance prior to mitigation. The discussion that follows the impact statement includes information to support the stated conclusion.
- **Mitigation Measures:** This subsection provides mitigation measures to reduce significant or potentially significant effects of the proposed project to the extent feasible. The State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (Section 15370) defines mitigation as:
 - a. avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
 - b. minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation;
 - c. rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
 - d. reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operation during the life of the action; and
 - e. compensating for the impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

The mitigation measures are registered numerically, corresponding to the impact being addressed. For example, Impact 4.3-3 would be mitigated with Mitigation 4.3-3.

- **Level of Significance after Mitigation:** This subsection describes the status of all significant impacts following application of mitigation measures. Either the impact would be reduced to a level below the significance threshold (mitigated to a less than significant level) or it would be concluded that feasible mitigation is not available or is insufficient to reduce an impact to less than significant. This would be a “significant unavoidable effect on the environment.”

As described in the project description, this DEIR addresses the environmental impacts of constructing and operating the Central Health Services Center and medical warehouse.